

**East Haddam Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2020**

Attending: D. Carbo; M. Davis; C. Grillo; P. Laffan; M. Roberts
Absent: S. Blanchard; M. Larson; C. Miner; T. Pisciotti
Guests: L. Conroy; S. Wheeler; other members of the public (virtually)

Mr. Davis called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

Guests & Audience

No topics were discussed.

Approval of Minutes

No minutes were available for review at the meeting.

Committee Reports

- **Disc Golf** – Mr. Laffan reported that people are continuing to use the disc golf course. In response to a request from Ms. Conroy, he agreed to put together a disc golf program for the summer camp.
- **Music on the River (MOR)** - Ms. Roberts reported that the Music on the River committee had made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Music on the River series due to COVID-19. She noted; however, that the committee has discussed extending the 2021 series by one or two concerts.

Director's Report

a. **Spring Programs Review**

Ms. Conroy reported that she refunded the pre-paid fees for the spring programs to registered participants. She stated that several programs such as bootcamp and Yoga have shifted to on-line sessions and noted that she is considering offering some of the programs virtually even after the pandemic quarantine is lifted.

Ms. Roberts and Mr. Davis complimented Director Conroy on the March and April Family Facebook Weekly Challenges. Ms. Roberts agreed that they were a big success; however, she stated that the challenge concluded as of May 1.

b. Summer/Fall Programs - Ms. Conroy provided the following report:

- She is moving forward with a traditional summer-camp within the guidelines provided by the state, Chatham Health District, and the Early Childhood Council. She advised that registration will only be available to Town residents. Ms. Conroy provided an overview of the program and noted that there will be no field trips this year; however, there will be outings to Cave Hill Resort, sponsored by Youth & Family Services, and the Town beach.

Ms. Conroy responded to several questions from the Commissioners. She stated that there will be a maximum registration of 60 children, three counselors for each group of ten campers, and the camps will be at the High School and the Middle School. She reviewed the daily screening protocol and noted that parents must register children no later than two weeks in advance – no exceptions will be made – and there will be no daily drop-offs allowed.

- Soccer Skyhawks have been scheduled to hold a training camp; Ms. Conroy noted that the Skyhawks have been put a lot of thought into how to maintain social distancing among the participants.
- The Little Noises Academy has been cancelled.
- The Town beach is open and staff started work on June 6th. The staff analyzed the capacity level to accommodate social distancing and set-up orange cones to identify spots where groups can set-up their chairs and blankets, etc.

There was a general discussion regarding capacity requirements and the Commissioners agreed with Ms. Conroy that it could get challenging to enforce this summer. There was a discussion regarding establishing a charge for non-residents to use the beach and several options on how to enforce it were discussed. Ms. Conroy advised she will discuss the possibility of a non-resident charge with First Selectman Smith.

Ms. Conroy reported that, due to social distancing requirements, there will be no swimming lessons until later this summer if guidelines relax. She stated that all six life-guards have returned this year.

- In collaboration with the Haddam and Killingworth Parks & Rec Departments, she has scheduled a Bubblemania program on Zoom.
- There is no basketball program scheduled, but she is hoping to schedule the Open Gym, bootcamp and Pickleball programs in the Municipal Office Building gymnasium in conjunction with the state's Phase II re-opening on June 17th.
- She plans to re-open the skate park during the state's Phase II re-opening (June 17-20).

Ms. Conroy reported that she is basically taking a “wait and see” approach to the Recreation Department's fall programs; however, she is hoping to schedule a soccer program and possibly a karate program.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed at the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Budget/Annual Report – Ms. Conroy reported that the Finance Commission approved the increase in the Department’s budget for renovations to Chap’s court and for the new registration software. She also advised that the Department may not expend its full 2019-2020 budget for lifeguards this summer.
- b. New Software Update – Ms. Conroy reported that the new registration software is up and running. She stated that there has been a slight learning curve; however, she is generally very happy with it.
- c. Facility Improvements – Ms. Conroy reported the following:
 - Cameras are in-place at the beach, the bathroom floors have been repaired and painted, and the bird’s nest swing will be installed soon. Some vandalism had occurred at the beach, which has since been cleaned-up, and she was able to identify the perpetrators from camera images.
 - The dog park was re-seeded and is open.
 - When Chap’s court is re-asphalted in the future, lines for pickle ball will be added. Ms. Conroy noted that a small locker for the pickle ball net may be installed near the court.

The Commissioners discussed the possibility of installing cameras at the Nicols Field parking lot(s).

In response to a question raised by Mr. Grillo, Director Conroy advised that the Nicols Field parking areas have been re-opened in conjunction with the state’s Phase I re-opening guidelines but the playground and basketball court are still closed.

In response to questions from the Commissioners, Ms. Conroy confirmed that staffing hours have been modified for camp counselors. She also reviewed the health guidelines and procedures that will be in place for both campers and counselors.

Director Conroy advised that the next regular meeting of the Recreation Commission is scheduled for August 10, 2020.

Adjournment

THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, MR. GRILLO MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. ROBERTS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. UNANIMOUS AYE.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Sharon R. Wheeler
Recording Secretary